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Chairman: Mr. Niculescu ..... (Romania)
later: Ms. Barrington (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Ireland)

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00-67630 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Ms. Izata** (Angola) said that despite globalization's potential for the world economy, the developing countries, owing to their weak technological development, were unable to benefit from the process and felt marginalized by the widening gap that separated them from the countries of the North. Angola therefore endorsed the call for reform of the international financial architecture and the other recommendations made by the Heads of State and Governments of the member countries of the Group of 77 and China at their recent meeting in Havana.

2. Under the current rules of international trade, countries such as her own could not contribute significantly to world economic growth and development. The challenges engendered by globalization could be met only through new mechanisms of economic cooperation between the developed and the developing countries, recognizing the de facto inequality between them at both the political and the economic and social levels. The rules governing economic relations between States must be redefined in order to maximize the benefits and minimize the disadvantages of globalization. Therefore, in addition to its search for peace, her Government was endeavouring to create a modern, effective market economy in order to attract foreign investment.

3. The outcome of the world conferences held during the past decade fell far short of expectations. Distortions in the current international trading system and, in particular, the failure of the developed countries to meet the commitments made during the Uruguay Round had made it increasingly difficult for the developing countries to compete in international markets. She hoped that future discussions on innovative debt-reduction mechanisms would produce results, allow such debts to be cancelled and ensure that developing countries received sufficient resources to restructure their economies with a view to poverty eradication. The rich continued to declare that they were tired of supplying financial aid; however, they failed to take into consideration the difficulties inherent in underdevelopment, which prevented poor countries from benefiting from an economy based on knowledge and technological development.

4. Her Government looked forward to the high-level event on financing for development and appealed to all stakeholders, particularly the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), to involve themselves in the preparatory process and in the event itself. It also hoped that the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries would herald significant improvement in the lives of people around the world.

5. **Mr. Baali** (Algeria) said that the Committee should endeavour to attain the goals established at the Millennium Summit while maintaining the spirit of partnership and the momentum generated on that occasion. Despite extensive discussions, little had been done to regulate globalization or to ensure that it benefited all countries, and particularly the poorest. Thus far, its advantages had been limited to a few countries and sectors while its negative consequences and risks were increasingly evident. While he was encouraged by the increasingly frequent call for globalization with a human face, he noted that good intentions were not enough; greater and more sustained international cooperation in an environment more favourable to the development of countries of the South was required. In any event, discussions on globalization must not overshadow discussions on the greater problem of development. The ultimate responsibility for the staggering growth of poverty in countries of the South lay with the international economic system and the rules governing that system.

6. The information and communication technology revolution had widened the gap between North and South, threatening the latter with further marginalization and exclusion. The Committee should join the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in seeking to promote international consensus on the need to assist the developing world in the areas of education, infrastructure, interactive equipment and communication. In particular, countries of the North should help those of the South to assess their current capacities and to ensure that information and communications technology was incorporated into national plans.

7. In preparation for the 10-year review of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, it should be noted that despite the growing importance and complexity of the

issues of environmental protection and sustainable development, countries had not received the necessary funding or transfer of technology and had been saddled with obligations and responsibilities greater than those agreed in Rio. Particularly disturbing was the lack of international support for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa. He noted that African Ministers of the Environment had expressed support for holding the 10-year review on the African continent.

8. The Committee needed to increase its openness to and influence on other forums. It must continue to improve its working methods, for it was no longer able to do justice to all the items on its agenda, due, in part, to lack of time and in part to the fact that documents were not always available on time. He hoped that the high-level event on financing for development would draw greater attention to the future of international development cooperation.

9. **Mr. Winn** (Myanmar) said that although the last quarter of the twentieth century had seen considerable improvement in standards of living and life expectancy, there were still 1.2 billion people living on less than $1 a day. His delegation was therefore encouraged by the commitment made at the Millennium Summit to halve the number of people living in extreme poverty by 2015. Achievement of that goal would require strong political will and robust, equitable economic growth.

10. The international community should support national efforts by providing wider market access for the products of developing countries, reversing the decline in ODA, encouraging increased FDI, narrowing the digital divide and finding a durable solution to the debt problem. Since ODA remained the major source of funding for infrastructure development and capacity-building in many developing countries, he urged the developed countries to consider increasing their ODA to 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) and to earmark 0.15 per cent to 0.2 per cent of that amount for the least developed countries. Moreover, ODA should be taken into consideration in assessing developing countries' national priorities and poverty reduction strategies.

11. Despite hopes, globalization had not made the whole world a village; it had merely created a new division between rich and poor that was dependent on the so-called "new economy", which had prospered primarily in traditionally rich countries and had marginalized the African and least developed countries. The United Nations should play a leading role in ensuring that globalization benefited everyone.

12. He was dismayed at the worsening cycle of debt and underdevelopment in some developing countries and welcomed all attempts to solve that problem, including the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. However, only 9 of the 42 countries listed under that Initiative had benefited from it. He therefore urged further debt forgiveness and other innovative measures to reduce the external debt burden of developing countries, including those in the middle-income category, and welcomed the recent decision of the Government of Italy to cancel the official debt of heavily indebted poor countries. He hoped that other developed countries would take similar action and that debt relief and cancellation would not affect ODA flows to developing countries.

13. His delegation hoped that the high-level event on financing for development would focus on national, international and systemic issues in a holistic manner and that the recommendations of regional consultative meetings would be considered. It welcomed the European Union's offer to hold the Third Conference of Least Developed Countries in Brussels and urged that preparations for the Conference should include donors and international financial institutions in a spirit of global partnership, shared responsibility and mutual benefit.

14. The recent financial crisis in Asia called for an urgent reform of the international financial architecture. While his delegation was encouraged by the progress made by IMF and other regional organizations, consideration should be given to establishing a network of regional and subregional reserve funds to support the role of IMF in financial sector coordination and surveillance. The private sector should also help prevent and resolve financial crises. He commended the report of the Secretary-General on progress towards a stable international financial system (A/55/187/Add.2) and the report of the Secretary-General on the draft text of an international development strategy for the first decade of the new millennium (A/55/89).

15. His Government was endeavouring to increase agricultural production and food security by promoting

private investment in newly established industrial zones, encouraging private entrepreneurs to invest in large-scale farming and providing infrastructure, inter alia, by constructing strategic roads, bridges, irrigation systems, dams and reservoirs. That would not only facilitate economic growth; it would also consolidate national unity and create jobs. Minorities were being brought into the mainstream economy through a programme that focused on health and education and also alternative sources of income so that the inhabitants of border and remote areas could abandon their traditional reliance on opium poppy cultivation.

16. The first two years of the current five-year plan had been disappointing; however, the nation had achieved a 10.9 per cent growth rate for the 1999/2000 fiscal year. His Government was actively participating in South-South cooperation in the Asia and Pacific region as both a recipient and a sponsor and hoped that cooperation between North and South would become more meaningful so that the commitments made at the Millennium Summit could be translated into reality.

17. **Mr. Rahmtalla** (the Sudan) said that since the North and the South had joint responsibility for the eradication of poverty and for dealing with environmental and other problems, international cooperation must be strengthened. Among the most important challenges facing decision makers in Africa were the eradication of poverty, economic growth, and investment in basic education and health care.

18. Sustainable development was essential if the needs of the population were to be met, natural resources preserved and food security guaranteed. Agricultural, environmental and population policies must therefore be coordinated.

19. Civil society and the private sector must work together to promote development and bring peace to the strife-affected areas of Africa and women must be given the opportunity to contribute to the economy on a basis of equality with men.

20. With regard to funding for development, access to financial resources and official development assistance (ODA) must be increased and some appropriate solution found to the crisis of foreign debt. There was a need for strategic cooperation between donors and the recipient African States, and donors must be assured that Africa was deserving of assistance. African funds must be kept in Africa. As the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, had said, Africa remained the great test of an effective agenda for development.

21. If it was to be effective in dealing fairly with the challenges of the twenty-first century and, in particular, development, economic and social issues, the United Nations must seek to rectify the imbalance of power, which had existed ever since the end of the cold war.

22. **Mr. Bakoniarivo** (Madagascar) said that regrettably, a handful of wealthy countries continued to reap the benefits of development and globalization while the majority of the world's population lived in misery. That was particularly worrying in view of soaring energy prices, since developing countries had greater difficulty in finding alternative sources of energy and introducing energy-efficient production techniques.

23. Intensified migration to the countries of the North and numerous conflicts in the countries of the South made integral, balanced and global development imperative. He hoped that the second high-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership (General Assembly resolution 54/213, para. 2) would address the problems of economic globalization, taking into account the plurality and specificity of sovereign nations. The United Nations should play a determining role in ensuring that globalization benefited all. The twin objectives of development and poverty eradication could be attained only through the promotion of equity in all aspects of finance and trade. The mechanisms and underlying policies of the current international trading and financial system must be transformed to create an international climate favourable to development. Effective technology transfer and actions to protect the environment and natural resources were a prerequisite to sustainable development. As a country that was frequently affected by natural disasters, Madagascar believed that a new ethic of protection and sound environmental management should be adopted.

24. As for external debt, it was regrettable that, as yet, only five of the 40 countries identified as potential beneficiaries of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative had been approved by the international financial institutions. More far-reaching debt-relief measures must be taken, particularly debt cancellation; the poorest nations could not allocate sufficient resources to poverty eradication programmes as long as they were burdened by a staggering debt. His

delegation hoped to see tangible results emanating from the commitments outlined in paragraphs 27 and 28 of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. At the same time, cancellation of bilateral debt should in no way be viewed as a substitute for official development assistance, which remained extremely vital, particularly to the least developed countries. Indeed, the meagre results in implementing the decisions of the major global conferences thus far were largely attributable to insufficient financing.

25. **Mr. Ben Mustapha** (Tunisia) said that the best approach to dealing with persistent poverty, underdevelopment and malnutrition was through a genuine partnership between States and peoples with a view to interdependent and unified development. In that context, Tunisia had designed a cooperation model based on partnership and development contracts between developed and developing countries and the recycling of debts into development project investments. The President of Tunisia had proposed the establishment of a World Solidarity Fund to help destitute countries, eradicate poverty and promote development. The Fund, to be financed by voluntary donations and contributions, would be modelled on a successful national experiment which had reduced estimated poverty to nearly 6 per cent, particularly in the rural areas. In August, a Tunisian delegation had held a number of working meetings in New York with representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to develop the concept of the World Solidarity Fund.

26. Noting that globalization had resulted in the marginalization of developing countries, he said that the future of the countries of the North was inextricably linked to the economic situation of the countries of the South. His delegation welcomed the recent debt-relief initiatives for certain developing countries and looked forward to the convening of a high-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development, which should take into account the specific needs and problems of each country, including middle-income countries which had adopted structural adjustment programmes.

27. The international community should devote special attention to Africa, where, as the Secretary-General had indicated in his report, entitled "We the peoples: the role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century" (A/54/2000), total outstanding external debts often exceeded the entire gross national product. His delegation hailed the pledge by world leaders in the United Nations Millennium Declaration to support poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa through, inter alia, debt cancellation, improved market access, enhanced official development assistance and the promotion of foreign direct investment, as well as transfers of technology. His delegation also endorsed the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa.

28. The financial crisis in Asia had illustrated the urgent need for the international community, particularly the Bretton Woods institutions, to establish protective mechanisms for developing countries. Globalization also called for the harmonization of financial, monetary and trade policies, enhanced cooperation and coordination of the activities of the relevant international organizations. In that connection, his delegation hoped that the next round of trade negotiations within the framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO) would endorse the principle of special and preferential treatment for developing countries.

29. In conclusion, he looked forward to a number of forthcoming events of vital importance to developing countries, including the high-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development, the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in 2001, the special session of the General Assembly in 2001 for follow-up to the World Summit for Children, the special session of the General Assembly to review and address the problem of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) and the 10-year review of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

30. **Ms. Tan Yee Woan** (Singapore) said that according to the latest World Bank report on poverty, almost half the world's population lived on less than $2 a day, and 50 per cent of children in poorer countries were malnourished. Although it was technically possible to achieve the target of halving the number of poor people, governments were driven more by national interests than by moral imperatives. The wealthier countries must be made to understand that, in an era of globalization, it was in their national interest

to help the developing countries — first of all, in order to check the tide of immigration and the spread of such illnesses as AIDS and malaria and, on a more positive note, because the populations of the poorer countries were potential customers for their goods and services and an untapped source of human intelligence and creativity that could benefit the entire world.

31. The elimination of trade barriers, especially in areas such as textiles and agriculture, where developing countries had a comparative advantage, would be a major step towards reducing poverty. At present, farmers in poor countries had to compete with heavily subsidized products from Europe and the United States of America. According to the report of the Secretary-General, global economic losses from agricultural protectionism could be as high as $150 billion per year — about $20 billion of it in lost exports for developing countries (A/54/2000, para. 171). But it was not just a question of free trade; many developing countries were desperately in need of basic physical, educational, legal and even political infrastructure in order to participate in the global economy. Thus, capacity-building and training should be major elements of development assistance. However well-intentioned, attempts to link trade and development assistance to utopian standards of environmental and labour protection should be strongly resisted. As had been made clear at the Millennium Summit, developing countries did not want globalization to be halted; they just wanted to be able to participate fully in the process and to enjoy its benefits. The Governments of developed countries must make a far greater effort to convince their electorates and special interest groups of the ultimate benefits to be derived from assisting developing countries.

32. She stressed the need for an integrated approach to the problem of poverty, and, in particular, strengthened coordination among independent organizations. Noting that 2001 was the International Year of Volunteers, she proposed forming advisory teams for development to help countries formulate an economic plan that took into account resources that were available both nationally and from the various international organizations, including non-governmental organizations. If the team's plan was accepted, its implementation should be given the full support of the United Nations. Given that many countries were concerned about what to do with the ageing, she said that consideration should be given to using the talents and experience of retired experts of all nationalities.

33. **Mr. A'Ala** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the developing countries continued to be marginalized with regard to international economic decision-making, to have only restricted access to world markets and financial and technological resources and to be a long way from enjoying the benefits promised from globalization. The claims that globalization was merely a new name for the old world order whereby the strong imposed their rules on the weak would appear to be justified. The serious negative effects of the phenomenon currently affecting many developing countries could, if left unchecked, spread to whole regions and pose a threat to international peace and security. Genuine endeavours must be made to ensure that developing countries did participate in the global economy on a basis of equality.

34. His delegation supported the proposal that a high-level intergovernmental event on financing for development should be held in 2001, and believed that such an event should be held in one of the States members of the Group of 77 and China.

35. He had noted with concern that levels of ODA continued to decrease, and urged donor States to honour their commitments unconditionally. He was also concerned by the ongoing external debt problems of developing countries. It was therefore imperative to find a way of alleviating the debts of middle-income countries and writing off those of the least developed countries.

36. As one of the countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, the Syrian Arab Republic was well aware of the importance of water resources and their management as a factor in development. He had therefore noted with satisfaction that the issue of water was included on the agenda of the current session of the General Assembly, and hoped that the Committee would adopt a comprehensive approach in its consideration of that issue. He welcomed the draft resolution submitted to the Committee concerning the designation of 2003 as the international year of fresh water. He wished, however, to express his concern at the reduction of financial resources for implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa. Such a reduction

did not reflect the enormity of the negative environmental and economic impact of desertification on many developing countries. He therefore hoped that the forthcoming session of the Conference of the Parties would serve as an opportunity for the issue to be given the priority on the international agenda that it deserved.

37. In the past few years, international consensus had been reached on the close link between peace and development. The tragic events currently being witnessed in the occupied Palestinian territories and, in particular, occupied Jerusalem, and the massacres that had followed the visit of the Israeli opposition leader, Ariel Sharon, to the Haram al-Sharif, had demonstrated that peace, which was an essential precondition for security and comprehensive and sustainable development in the Middle East, was still a long way off. In any consideration of development and globalization, it was impossible not to question how development could be achieved when a people was still under occupation and subject to aggression. In that context, he wished to make a number of observations.

38. Israel's most recent onslaught on the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories, had been deliberately planned by the Israeli Government; that Government had been voted into office on the basis of its alleged support for peace. No one could possibly believe that the use of heavy weapons against unarmed civilians could serve the cause of peace.

39. The Israeli Government was determined to continue to expropriate Palestinian land, commandeer water resources and build new and expand existing settlements in occupied Palestinian territory, as documented in A/55/84.

40. Continued Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories seized in 1967, including Jerusalem, and the Syrian Golan was completely incompatible with the spirit of international cooperation. None of the endeavours being exerted in the region with a view to peace and development could succeed if Israeli practices and disregard for and violations of the most basic rules of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, continued to be condoned. His delegation would deliver a detailed statement on the issue when the Committee discussed agenda item 98.

41. **Mr. Çubukçu** (Turkey) said that it was imperative for the developed countries to provide external financial and technical assistance to the developing countries and to integrate the least developed countries into the global financial and trading system.

42. Landlocked and transit countries were being increasingly marginalized despite their efforts to build an enabling national environment. Turkey would continue to provide support to those countries in order to help them overcome their economic problems. His delegation was also looking forward to participating in the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in Brussels in May 2001.

43. As for the environment, his delegation would continue to participate actively in the meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development. His delegation welcomed the latter's recommendation that the tenth session of the Commission should act as the preparatory body for the 10-year review of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

44. **Mr. Awesso** (Togo) said that the economic and social situation of the world was far from satisfactory. Indeed, four years into the United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, 44 per cent of Africa's population lived well below the poverty line with more than half of the population of sub-Saharan Africa living in absolute poverty. In that context, the goal of halving the number of poor people in the world by 2015 seemed difficult to achieve. That situation had been further complicated by globalization, which had seriously hampered the development of some countries, especially the least developed countries, and made it difficult to integrate them into the world economy.

45. In his delegation's view, the high-level international intergovernmental event on financing for development, scheduled to be held in 2001, would be a good opportunity to adopt measures to eradicate poverty in the least developed countries. The agenda for the event should take into account the specific needs of developing countries as well as their external debt. It was more urgent than ever to find a lasting solution to global poverty by adopting bold and innovative measures. The international community should adopt special measures to strengthen the production capacity and enhance the access of African countries to the markets of industrialized countries. There was an obvious need to establish a just

international trading system, since the imbalance of the current system was extremely harmful to developing countries. In that regard, he endorsed the Secretary-General's appeal to industrialized countries to consider granting duty-free and quota-free access for all exports from the least developed countries. There was also an urgent need for private capital flows to countries in the South. His delegation hoped that the high-level international intergovernmental event on financing for development would come up with measures for strengthening the flows of such resources towards developing countries.

46. Turning to the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to be held in Brussels in May 2001, he stressed that the success of that Conference would depend on what action the international community decided to take with respect to increasing ODA, substantially reducing the debt, increasing investments, enhancing trade and capacity-building.

47. His delegation was particularly concerned about the widening gap between developed and developing countries in the area of information and communication technologies, and it welcomed the recent recommendations made by the Economic and Social Council in that regard. The OAU Conference in Lomé had also expressed deep concern about Africa's backwardness in that regard and had called for the establishment and promotion of new information and communication technologies which it considered as vital tools for promoting culture, education and development.

48. **Ms. Ibraimova** (Kyrgyzstan) said that the elimination of the gap between the developed countries on the one hand and developing countries and countries with economies in transition on the other hand should be effected inter alia through the adoption of a fair mechanism for the effective participation of the latter in the international trading system. In that regard, the specific problems of countries with economies in transition required special consideration. Her delegation, hoped that the forthcoming high-level international intergovernmental event on financing for development would be able to adopt measures to address the problems of financing for development in a context of globalization and interdependence, with particular emphasis on the eradication of poverty.

49. Indeed, shorn of all the sophisticated economic rhetoric, poverty reduction simply meant creating new jobs for everyone and creating conditions that would restore people's self-respect and hope. Her Government had made poverty eradication its highest priority and had elaborated a national strategy in that regard. It had, inter alia, launched several microcredit programmes based on the Grameen bank model in rural areas and created a number of projects to support medium and small enterprises geared in particular towards businesswomen.

50. Landlocked developing countries faced difficulties in international competition due to their geographic location. Collective and constructive action at the United Nations should be undertaken in order to provide unimpeded access of such countries to the sea, reduce their transit transport costs, and develop adequate transit transport infrastructure. Action should also be taken to seek international and regional cooperation for fair competitiveness, sustainable development and integration of those countries into the globalizing world economy.

51. The establishment of a uniform transport system was especially important for Central Asia, which was located far from large sea routes. Kyrgyzstan was working towards the creation of a uniform transport system for the region with access to external markets and the creation of modern communication systems. That would not only reduce the distance and time of transportation, but would also become a powerful impetus for economic development.

52. Noting that sustainable management of the environment was a key element in Kyrgyzstan's domestic and foreign policies, she said that one of the most crucial tasks facing the current session of the General Assembly was the acceptance of the decision to organize the 10-year review of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Her Government had, inter alia, acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution. The Kyrgyz parliament was currently working on the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol.

53. She welcomed the recognition by the international community of the specificity of mountain ecosystems and the decision to observe an International Year of Mountains in 2002. She urged all Member

States to take advantage of the International Year of Mountains to ensure the present and future well-being of mountain communities by promoting conservation and sustainable development in mountain areas. The end of the International Year should be the beginning of consistent and forward-looking development of mountain regions. In the hope that its realization would promote the mobilization of economic, technical and financial resources for the sustainable development of mountain areas, Kyrgyzstan was offering to host the International Conference on Mountains under the auspices of the United Nations.

Ms. Barrington (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

54. **Mr. Suh Dae-Won** (Republic of Korea) said it was quite clear that unless proper action was taken, economic disparities and information poverty would be further aggravated. He welcomed, in that regard, the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council in July 2000. Given the structural and financial difficulties of most developing countries, it was not possible for them to tap into the benefits accruing from globalization. Faced with that new environment, the United Nations should take the lead in the pursuit of sustainable development and poverty eradication in developing countries, while fully utilizing its vast expertise and experience in those areas. Partnerships among major stakeholders were essential to adequately address the multifaceted and interrelated challenges. In that context, the United Nations should strengthen its partnerships with major development stakeholders, such as the Bretton Woods institutions and WTO. In that connection, he welcomed the Secretary-General's initiative with respect to the "Global Compact".

55. The United Nations development strategies needed to be overhauled to take into account the needs defined by the developing countries themselves. It should redouble its efforts to promote greater coherence and efficient coordination in its activities. Major United Nations conferences should no longer be subjected to automatic review; rather, efforts should be concentrated on more effective implementation of the measures adopted.

56. His delegation attached great importance to the outcome of the high-level international intergovernmental event on financing for development and sincerely hoped that it would provide a realistic platform for addressing financial resource mobilization for the economic growth of developing countries. He also hoped that the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries would help those countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and to bring about their integration into the world economy.

57. On the issue of environment and sustainable development, he stressed the importance of implementing Agenda 21. In that regard, the 10-year review of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development would serve as another landmark event for renewing the international community's commitment to sustainable development. His Government was considering making a contribution to the trust fund established for that purpose in order to facilitate the participation of developing countries in the event. As his country recovered from the recent financial crisis, it was renewing its commitment to strengthening cooperation with developing countries by gradually increasing its ODA.

58. In an effort to facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, the Republic of Korea had hosted the high-level forum on South-South cooperation in science and technology transfer earlier in the year. Confronted with the widening gap among and within nations, it was all the more vital to forge a genuine global partnership.

59. **Mr. Enkhtsetseg** (Mongolia) said that the effects of globalization were most clearly apparent in the area of economics, trade and finance, and information and communications technology. Along with greater opportunities, globalization had created situations of heightened vulnerability and insecurity especially for the poorer nations. Despite several decades of development effort, the number of the world's poor remained at an unacceptable level. All stakeholders should redouble their efforts to fulfil the commitment of world leaders to halve the current level of abject poverty by 2015.

60. Reducing poverty figured prominently on the agenda of the newly formed Government of Mongolia for just over a third of the population lived below the poverty line. Single mothers, children under 16 and the elderly accounted for half of all the poor, and in the harsh Mongolian climate, an average of a third of household or institutional income was spent on heating and shelters. The Government's poverty alleviation

programme had an extensive national outreach at grass-roots level. In the first phase of the programme, from 1995 to 2000, the anti-poverty activities, including microcredit projects for women, promotion of rural development and social protection of the extreme poor, had largely stabilized the trend of increasing income poverty. The second phase would ensure a holistic approach to poverty eradication.

61. The United Nations was called on to play an instrumental role in the global response to the challenge of bridging the digital divide. His delegation fully supported the ministerial Declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council in July, as well as its decision to set up an ICT task force. His Government was resolved to fully implement its national ICT programme up to the year 2010 in close cooperation with its bilateral and multilateral development partners.

62. Most developing countries had yet to see the benefits resulting from increasing world trade liberalization. In addition, the flow of official development assistance (ODA) had declined, due to a "trade, not aid" approach. However, aid, investment and trade were complementary and mutually reinforcing; and all were critical for promoting sustainable economic growth and reducing poverty. In that connection he drew attention to the decisions taken at the South Summit in April 2000.

63. The new approach to the problem of debt proposed by the Secretary-General in his report (A/54/2000) also deserved closer consideration. Mongolia looked forward to the upcoming high-level international conference on financing for development and the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to produce meaningful time-bound commitments on the agreed developmental targets.

64. His delegation expressed its appreciation to the World Bank, UNCTAD and others who had expressed their support for the efforts of landlocked developing countries at their first-ever ministerial meeting on 18 September at the Millennium Assembly. His delegation endorsed the proposal to convene such meetings annually and strongly favoured the convening of an international ministerial meeting on transit transport issues in 2003 to assess the progress achieved in implementing the Global Framework for Transit Cooperation and chart future collective action.

65. The Ministers had expressed their deep concern at the increasing marginalization of landlocked developing countries in the light of globalization and liberalization and major advances in information and communication technologies. New measures for duty- and quota-free access for goods and services from landlocked developing countries should be considered in the context of multilateral trade negotiations and other preferential arrangements.

66. His delegation looked forward to the 10-year review of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Following that Conference, Mongolia had launched its national sustainable development agenda, the Mongolian Action Programme for the twenty-first century, which was now being implemented. Along with the other 28 developing countries, Mongolia had ratified the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. He urged other countries, especially the developed partners, to display the necessary political will so that it could enter into force at an early date.

67. As a country with an extremely low population density, weak infrastructure and high susceptibility to natural disasters, Mongolia strongly supported the Secretary-General's proposals to establish a health inter-network with 10,000 online sites in developing countries to provide access to up-to-date medical information, and to provide reliable and fast communications in disaster-stricken areas. Mongolia would take an active part in those important initiatives.

68. As a contribution towards better understanding of a host of human security-related issues, the Government of Mongolia had organized, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme and the Swedish International Development Agency, an international conference on human security, which had considered the economic and social aspects of human security in the context of transition and globalization, and ways of ensuring ecological sustainability. The Conference had produced a comprehensive set of recommendations aimed at ensuring human security and, as a result, several concrete projects were being considered for implementation with Mongolia's bilateral and multilateral partners.

69. **Mr. Al-Hadid** (Jordan) noted that the gap between developed and developing countries was continuing to widen: international organizations

reported that 20 per cent of the world's population controlled 80 per cent of its financial resources, while more than 850 million persons were starving, 1.2 billion lived on less than $1 per day and 100 million children had no shelter. The challenge was to ensure that all had equal access to the benefits of globalization. Vulnerable sectors of society must be protected by social security systems operating at both international and national levels.

70. The external debt problems of the developing countries were an obstacle to sustainable development. Jordan had adopted a number of policies that had helped reduce its external indebtedness to 90 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), but that debt continued to deter foreign investment. The international community and, in particular, the developed countries, must take steps to alleviate that burden and allow the developing countries to help themselves.

71. Developed countries could t a number of measures in that regard; they could start by honouring their commitment to achieve the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of GNP for ODA. He commended those countries that had already achieved or exceeded that target. More inventive approaches could be adopted to debt repayment in cases where it was not possible to forgive the debt completely. The existing trading system, which greatly favoured the developed countries, must be improved, markets opened to goods from the developing countries, and protectionist measures abandoned. Access to finance must be made more readily accessible to the developing countries. In that context, he stressed the importance of the high-level intergovernmental event on financing for development to be held in 2001 and hoped that it would succeed in making such financing available. The transfer of technology to developing countries must also be facilitated with a view to raising production standards. The United Nations had a pivotal role to play, especially with regard to coordinating the endeavours of national institutions with the global economy and improving the international monetary system.

72. **Mr. Pradhan** (Bhutan) said that ODA was vital to the international community's efforts to tackle the problems of poverty and promote environmentally-sensitive sustainable development in the developing countries. While it was hoped that foreign direct investment would, in the years to come, play a greater role in a larger number of developing countries, it would be naive to think that it could replace ODA, especially the least developed countries.

73. His delegation was aware that while the developed countries would need to extend their full cooperation to reduce poverty, the developing countries must do their utmost to provide stability and good governance. In Bhutan, there was a people-centred policy of socio-economic development. The Government had also made considerable efforts to preserve the national environment, which not only benefited Bhutan but also other countries in the region. As a result, nearly three fourths of Bhutan's land was under mostly pristine forests, and forests were no longer considered as an economic resource to be exploited. That also ensured the maintenance of vast catchment areas for the freshwater resources that emanated from Bhutan and flowed to lower riparian countries.

74. Given the tremendous efforts being made to contain the population explosion, it was alarming to learn that the world's population was expected to expand to 10 billion by the year 2030. Population explosions and consequent migrations often wreaked havoc in the economic policies and development efforts of neighbouring countries and regions. The international community should pay closer attention to that phenomenon while considering issues of peace and security, poverty and development. The international community had held exhaustive debates on what needed to be done to halve extreme poverty in the next 15 years. His delegation hoped that the Committee would help to further those laudable objectives.

75. **Mr. Andino-Salazar** (El Salvador) said that since the benefits of globalization were not equally available to all countries, the international community and, in particular, the developed countries could help by inter alia creating an international environment of greater opportunity in terms of access to markets for products from developing countries, investment, and technology and information transfer.

76. His delegation was satisfied with the commitments reflected in the millennium declaration concerning development and the eradication of poverty, including the commitment to an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system, and the commitments for environmental conservation, including the

intensification of efforts to reduce the number and effects of natural disasters.

77. In the era of globalization and trade liberalization, the role of international trade and private investments was increasingly important, but small economies were very often excluded from the benefits of private investments.

78. Official development assistance (ODA) had declined in recent years. For many countries, including his own, ODA continued to be an important resource for programmes geared to sustainable development, which depended mainly on international cooperation programmes. In that connection, he hoped that all parties, including the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, would participate in the forthcoming high-level intergovernmental meeting on financing for development.

79. The emergency situation that had arisen in the countries of Central America and the Yucatan peninsula due to Hurricane Keith was a reminder of the need to work towards creating a world culture for prevention to replace the present culture of reaction. His delegation agreed with the Secretary-General that it was important to integrate fully efforts to reduce natural disasters into the sustainable development strategies of the United Nations and other international organizations so as to develop early warning systems at the regional and subregional level.

80. The United Nations should play a fundamental role as a focal point to harmonize and make more viable the possible alternatives that could lead to solutions of global problems.

81. **Mr. Pimentel-Pacheco** (Dominican Republic) said that the new national authorities of the Dominican Republic were encountering a different economic and social situation, as in all developing countries, which was the result of a number of factors, including globalization, and the crushing burden of external debt.

82. The President of the Dominican Republic had pointed out that in order to achieve macroeconomic balance, the country needed effective State institutions, transparent public administrations and respect for human rights, along with the full involvement of all in decisions that affected one and all, and the creation of a solid infrastructure. However, strong and generous investment in education, in food, in protecting and enhancing the environment were also necessary. Indeed, priority should be given to public expenditures resolving the most acute social problems.

83. Progress and development were an ongoing responsibility borne by the national Government and civil society, although international cooperation was increasingly necessary and vital. In that connection his Government was taking steps to promote a model of development that provided well-paid job opportunities and access to high-quality public and private services for most people.

84. The Secretary-General in his report (A/54/2000, para. 178) had quite rightly spoken of the crushing burden posed by external debt, saying that debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries must be an integral part of the international community's contribution to development.

85. His Government had an ambitious plan for forests, rivers and nature parks and it attached high priority to following through on the recommendations and commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. It therefore looked forward to the forthcoming 10-year review of that Conference.

86. **Mr. Belinga-Eboutou** (Cameroon) said that at the current session emphasis was being placed on the need to take full account of globalization, which was creating global problems as well as a global economy. As environmental pollution in one country would affect the entire globe, good environmental management would lead to greater security for humanity as a whole, and offer possibilities of greater development. Education was another global issue; the lost potential of children from poor countries, who were just as intelligent as others but had not had the chance to go to school, was a loss for humanity as a whole.

87. The past decade had encouraged awareness of the global nature of the world's problems. Since 1990, the United Nations had organized conferences on a number of issues that required a concerted effort from all countries. The global nature of the issues was not new, but the awareness was. The need for a shared approach to shared problems had been recognized, and that awareness formed the backbone of the Millennium Declaration, calling for a real contract of solidarity for a world free from need and fear.

88. The commitments regarding meeting the special needs of Africa outlined in paragraphs 27 and 28 of the

Declaration would test the capacity and willingness of the international community to engage on the path of solidarity. Integration of the African continent into the global economy would require joint action to make Africa the partner of choice that it should always be, given its vast riches. Three main goals for international action had been proposed at the Summit: poverty eradication, access to information and communication technologies, and combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

89. The United Nations should take the lead on those issues, and facilitate Africa's entry into the world economy as a preferred partner. The General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council had a very important role to play in that respect. Indeed, the Council should reclaim its important place by helping to reach a consensus on the issues that concerned the development of humanity: poverty, the fight against AIDS, and the spread of information technology. It should play a role in the final review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. Taking into account the situation of Africa, the Council should serve, in the spirit of the Millennium Declaration, as a laboratory for the contracts of solidarity with and for that continent to be submitted to the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.